

In the specification:

Page 8, amend the paragraph in lines 2-4 as follows:

~~The single figure of the drawings~~ Figure 1 is a view showing an example of realization of a method of a leak diagnosis in accordance with the present invention; ~~and~~

Figure 2 is a flow-chart illustrating the steps of the inventive method of a leak diagnosis.

Page 11, amend the paragraph in lines 1-7 as follows:

In the inventive method of the tank leak diagnosis during the ~~evaporation operation~~ operation of the internal combustion 6 shortly before the turning off, a negative pressure is built in the fuel tank 1, by closing the flow element ~~411~~ and opening the tank ventilation valve 3. Due to the negative pressure in the suction pipe 5, gas is aspirated from the fuel tank 1. Since because of the closed flow element 11 more fresh air can flow from the atmosphere, a negative pressure is produced in the fuel tank 1.

Amend the paragraph bridging pages 13 and 14 as follows:

Since in accordance with the present invention the tank leak diagnosis is performed after the turning off of the internal combustion 6 and thereby during stopping of the vehicle, disturbing influences which negatively affect the tank leak diagnosis are reduced, so that the result of the tank leak diagnosis is more reliable than in the prior art. A disturbing influence is the degassing of the fuel during the tank leak diagnosis, since during the degassing of the fuel the pressure of the fuel tank 1 increases and thereby a negative pressure is ~~built up~~reduced, so that a false conclusion can be made about a not available leakage. The diagnosis is for example influenced during acceleration, braking or a curved travel of the vehicle, and over alternating street sections, since the fuel is movable back and forth differently in the fuel tank 1. A further disturbing influence is a change of the atmospheric pressure, which occurs for example in a mountain travel or a downward travel. With the change of the atmospheric pressure the differential pressure between the fuel tank 1 and the atmosphere changes, which falsifies the diagnosis results when the pressure sensor is a differential pressure sensor.

Page 15, amend the paragraph in lines 3-11 as follows:

Since the tank leak diagnosis is performed after the turning off of the internal combustion engine, there is sufficient time available for

performing of the tank leak diagnosis. Also, disturbances produced during the operation of the internal combustion engine 6, for example by the operation of the fuel pump in the fuel tank in the fuel pump 1, are avoided. The tank leak diagnosis performed in idle running to the contrary is dependent on the number and the time of the idle running phases and often must be interrupted without obtaining a diagnosis result, since for example the idling phase is very short.

On page 15, after line 11, insert the following:

The flow chart of Figure 2 illustrates a sequence of the steps of the inventive method of a tank leak diagnosis.

In Step 1 the preceding turning off of the internal combustion engine 6 is signaled. Then in Step 2 the flow element 11 is closed and the tank ventilation valve 3 is opened. In Step 3 the negative pressure in the fuel tank 1 is adjusted to a predetermined value and maintained constant. After this, in Step 4 after turning off of the internal combustion engine 6, the tank ventilation valve 3 is closed. Finally, in Step 5 the tank leak diagnosis is started.